

INKWELL



THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE WRITING CENTER
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ON THE *INKWELL* ANTHOLOGY

CHRISTOPHER ROTONDO

Writing Center tutors have always kept journals to document and reflect on their experiences, pose questions of themselves and their practices, and seek answers. For the past five years, the cumulative knowledge of these journals has manifested in the essays and poems of *Inkwell*. Without *Inkwell*, the Writing Center's history would be fragmented at best, a discontinuous conversation over recollections and hazy anecdotes. If we weren't to write in our journals or craft this book every spring, the Center's history would slip away from us, like a tallship tipping over the edge of the world.

The writings that make up *Inkwell* are the nautical charts of past tutors' experiences. These charts are our inheritance as tutors, maps to guide us through an intergenerational dialogue. This map becomes a part of us the first time we sit down at the Center's Formica tables. For this year's anthology, tutors consciously engaged with their inheritance.

Before writing their forewords, tutors read, dropping their lines into the sea and sitting before a mirror to decipher their inherited ink. By reading, they learned the importance of longitude and latitude for charting the expanse of our collective experience. Their forewords demarcate passage over the sea we tread as we write.

In this sense, Volume VI is a self-consciously historical document. While we have been practical in our selection of past articles, true to our subtitle, "A Student Guide to Writing at Evergreen," *Inkwell's* compass is always spinning. In one gesture, we offer guidance to student writers and simultaneously embark on our own expedition. Our tutoring is alive with the voices of student writers who have turned the map north to south, east to west. Without their candid collaboration, our words would be the murmurs of lost cartographers. It is student writers who challenge us, who force us from the confines of comfortable habits and into the experimental.

We're compelled to redraw the map.